

West Lafayette Fire Department November 2011

Lindberg Bridge

It's good to have the new bridge completed on Lindberg Road and it didn't take long for the Fire Department to use it. The morning following the Halloween ribbon cutting trucks from all three stations used the bridge to respond to a report of fire alarms sounding in a building. Throughout this past year while the construction was going on, WLFD used alternate routes and modified the response districts of Stations 1 and 2 and, thankfully, all incidents were successfully handled without significant hindrance. Also, WLFD appreciated having a mutual aid agreement in place with the Wabash and Purdue fire departments.

Station Projects

Needed repair work was completed on the Station 1 bay floor. Earlier this year funding for this project was secured through the Community Development Block Grant. The concrete floor had been in place for many years, likely more than fifty although parts of it may have been older than that. The floor had reach the point where it was breaking down and the deterioration was going to increase rapidly.

Station 2 was also in need of repairs and upgrading. For many years there has been water leaking into the basement during heavy rainstorms and various fixes had been tried. Input was solicited from four companies on how to best solve the problem. Three of them came back with proposals and these three differed significantly in the proposed solutions. A \$6,700 proposal made the most sense and was clearly the most cost effective. However, it was the most invasive with regard to the lawn but, the lawn will be reseeded and landscaped as the weather allows. Since the work was completed there have been three heavy rains that would have sent water streaming into the basement in the past but, during these rains, the basement remained dry.

New windows were installed throughout Station 2 at a cost of \$5,400. These replaced aluminum framed windows that were original to the building (1964). The warmth and increased efficiency of the new ones are already noticeable.

Station 2 also now has several additional inches of insulation in the attic. The cost of this was only \$1,600 thanks to the effort of several firefighters.

Design and planning work continues on the new Station 3 with the goal of breaking ground early in the spring.

FEMA Alert Test

Some people may have noticed the Emergency Alert System test on TV and radio in the afternoon of November 9. For the most part this system has been a State and Local one. However, homeland security and other concerns have driven an upgrade initiative that allows nationwide alerts to be broadcast over the Emergency Alert System and this test was part of the upgrade process.

Chief Drew